

25X1

S E C R E T
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Chemical Warfare, Training and Maneuvers
in the 62nd Infantry RegimentPLACE
ACQUIREDDATE
ACQUIRED B

DATE OF INF

DATE DISTR. 19 Aug. 53

NO. OF PAGES 6

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The training program in the 2nd Co., 1st Bn., 62nd Inf. Regt., 25X1 at Elk 5350N-2221E was set up for a full five-day schedule. Saturday was devoted to inspection, and Sunday to leisure time in camp. In winter, Monday through Friday, the schedule was from 0600-2000; in summer, from 0500-2300. The over-all schedule included the following subjects:

- a. Infantry training: weapons familiarization, nomenclature and marksmanship of the carbine, (Krotki Bojowy Karabin - KBK); sniper rifle (Karabin Bojowy Wojskowy - KBW); and machine pistol (Pistolet Maszynowy - PM). Targets used in firing included the 10-ring target, waist silhouette, full-body silhouette and the sniper black target. The 10-ring target consisted of ten alternate white and black rings. Rings were numbered and scored from 1 (outermost ring) through 10 (bull's eye). The 10-ring target was used for 50 m. firing with the TT pistol and for 100 and 200 m. firing with the KBK.

EM fired three live rounds at 100 m. using the 10-ring target. The black waist silhouette was used in firing with the KBK at 200 m. The full-body black silhouette was used in firing with the KBK at 100 m. The black sniper target with a five centimeter white bull's-eye in the center, was used in firing the KBW at 200 m.

25X1

25X1

ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

S E C R E T

SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 2 -

25X1

- b. Familiarization with RG-42, F-1, RPG-6, and RPG-40 grenades.
- c. Terrain study, including method of observation, selection of terrain through observation, determination of distance and type of targets by observing the target's movement, sound emitted or light exposed.
- d. Close order and extended order drill, military courtesy, and military regulations.
- e. Physical training, including obstacle course exercise and bayonet drill.
- f. Platoon-company tactics, including the role of the rifleman in defense and attack, digging of foxhole and trench, camouflage, day and night attacks by squad and platoon in forest and open areas, reporting of observations, concealment from aircraft, personal defense against tanks, attack and counter-attack, road marches, scouting and patrolling, scaling of obstacles and wire entanglements, and hygiene in the field.
- g. EM were given political indoctrination which consisted of political lectures in two-hour sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; the following subjects were stressed: role of the Union of the Polish Youth (Związek Młodzieży Polskiej - ZMP) and the United Polish Workers' Party (Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza - PZPR) in the Polish Army; the Six-Year Plan; the Korean War; beginnings of Communism in Poland; evolution of man; history of BIERUT, ROKOSSOWSKI, STALIN, LENIN, etc; the new Polish Army; and the imperialists of the West.
- h. Chemical warfare, including instruction on the construction of the gas mask, the respirator, protective cape, stockings, and gloves, familiarization with combat gases, and one 15-minute gas chamber exercise. Instructors - officers, NCO's and EM - were from the Cml. Plat. in the 62nd Inf. Regt. The Cml. Plat. was in turn supervised by the regimental chemical officer. Although training aids were utilized, no chemical texts were used. Instruction was given from chemical brochures in the hands of the Cml. Plat.
 - (1) The gas mask was the grayish-white rubber Soviet Shlem type. It was weakest in the upper forehead structure and under the chin. There were instances in the 1st Bn., 62nd Inf. Regt. where masks were torn in donning and adjusting. 25X1
 - (2) Officers and EM in the 62nd Inf. Regt. were given a 30-minute gas mask training period once per week. The training included: donning of the mask, adjusting of the mask, following commands, and gaining dexterity in donning masks. The time to don, adjust and check mask was 8 - 12 seconds, but very few of the men could execute the drill in eight seconds. 25X1
 - (3) In the 62nd Inf. Regt., Friday of each week was designated as "Gas Day". Officers and EM had to have their gas masks on their person. From 1000-1300 on Fridays, all personnel had to wear their gas masks. The alarm for "Gas!" was given by telephone or a candle giving off fog-color smoke was placed in the center of the area.

S E C R E T

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 3 -

25X1

- (4) On one occasion in 1953, there was a road march exercise for the 1st Bn., which included walking and running with masks through a simulated gas area of three kilometers, going through an obstacle course, and firing live ammunition upon reaching a firing range. Gas was simulated by depositing rotten onions in the area. On smelling the odor, masks were donned. There were no signs or flags identifying the gassed area.
- (5) In gas mask drills, 15 to 30 minutes per week (as specified in the regiment training program), the following commands were used: 1) "Prepare for Gas!", 2) "Gas!" (masks were donned and adjusted, and a test for gas was made by lifting a side of the facepiece), 3) "Remove mask!". The command to remove a damaged corrugated hose and attach the canister to the facepiece was, "Individual mask, damaged!" ("Maska wlasniwa, uszkodzona!"). When the canister was theoretically defective or damaged and was to be replaced, the command was, "Canister, damaged!" ("Pochlaniacz, uszkodzony!"). If the mask and hose were defective or damaged, the officers and EM were told that the canister could be detached and used as protection against gas. Gas mask drills were conducted by officer platoon leaders and company officers, supervised by the Cml. Plat. CO or the regimental chemical officer. In the 62nd Inf. Regt. there was only one officer, 2nd Lt. (fnu) GABKA, who was both the regimental chemical officer and the Cml. Plat. CO.
- (6) EM on guard duty had to carry gas masks. There were no special chemical or chemical warfare instructions given the guards.
- (7) About two or three hours per month were devoted to identification of the following gases: iperyt (mustard), lewisite, phosgene, chlorpicrin, tear gas, and tabun. These gases were in glass ampules and displayed on a cardboard as a training aid. [redacted] There was no actual sniffing of these gases, and only chlorpicrin was positively identified through the gas chamber exercise. 25X1 25X1
- (8) The gases in the sealed ampules could be identified by students only if instructors named them beforehand. Furthermore, despite all chemical training in the regiment, there was much less interest shown by officer and enlisted personnel in chemical warfare than in infantry tactics and marksmanship. [redacted] tabun was an odorless, deadly, nerve gas, and [redacted] it was a German gas taken over by the Soviets. Tabun was cited, during instruction, as the most effective and dangerous gas. Other dangerous gases were: mustard, lewisite, phosgene, and diphosgene. 25X1 25X1
- (9) In March 1953, there was a gas chamber exercise in the 62nd Inf. Regt. area. The gas chamber was a room located on the second floor of the regiment guard house. Its capacity was 10-12 persons. Personnel went into the chamber three times, each time for a five-minute period. Gas was released by dipping a swab into a glass container of a brownish liquid, called chlorpicrin (klorpykryna), waving the swab in the air and filling the chamber with gas. Personnel were to don masks upon entering the chamber as soon as they smelled the gas.

S E C R E T

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 4 -

25X1

The gas produced an itching and burning sensation on the neck and hands. The main purpose of the exercise was to demonstrate the effect of the gas, and the excellence of the mask. Gas chamber exercises were conducted and supervised by the Cml. Plat. CO or the regimental chemical officer (2nd Lt. GABKA).

2.

25X1

The gas mask utilized by regiment personnel was the Shlem type. There were about 1,500 masks and canisters, both old and new, in reserve supply. On some masks, on the left temple there was the Russian cyrillic letter Ф (F). The eyepieces were glass. The use of a plastic disc on the inside of the eyepieces was contemplated because there were some on hand; however, the plastic discs were not issued in my time. There were twin tissot tubes on the inside of the mask. The corrugated tube was plain, although some seemed to be covered with a gray substance, possibly stockinet. The canisters were the MO-2 type and had five swages, - not just four - in the upper part of the canister. The metal canisters were painted black, gray and/or green, with no identification on them. In the canister were a smoke filter, activated charcoal, cotton, tiny springs and chemical granules. There was an air filter in the bottom.

25X1

25X1

a. In the green canvas waterproof carrier, was the gas mask, a protective cape, anti-dim soap and "gum" stockings. Military personnel did not know how to repair their masks. Spare parts for the gas masks were to be had only by cannibalizing other masks. The mask issued to a soldier was retained for the duration of his tour of service. When not used in training, the gas masks were kept in the barracks with the soldiers' field packs. All canisters were to be tested once a year. the gas mask and the canister would not protect one against all gases, because a mask could be old, some of its parts worn, or its canister defective.

25X1

3. In addition to the personnel gas mask, there were two types of masks for horses. One corresponded to the KSP-6 Dry Horse Gas Mask which was not the dry but the wet type; and the other corresponded to the Dry Horse Gas Mask with the two corrugated tubes running over the neck of the horse.

4. the Gas Reconnaissance Kit, SKHR-4 (Polish Model TCHZ-4); the ADM-750 the EDM 275; the DK-1, decontamination apparatus (one for each infantry regiment); the RDP-4 portable sprayers; the IPP 5 and 6 individual anti-chemical package. The IPP 5 and/or 6 was to be carried into the field in the blouse of the individual soldier, but this was not done, because the bottle might break and injure the soldier.

25X1

25X1

25X1

a. In the SKHR-4, the detector tubes had one each of the following color bands: red, brown, black, blue, and green. There was an identification chart in the kit which identified the color band with a gas. The RDP-4 had "RDP-4" in white on the upper side of the sprayer tank which was black. The RDP-4 differed from the RDP-3 in that the hand pump on the RDP-4 extended to the top of

S E C R E T

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 6 -

25X1

9. There were about 3,000 RDG-1 grenades in regimental supply. This type of grenade was about 32 cm. in length, 10 cm. in diameter, had a burning time of 1½ to 2 minutes, a firing pin-type igniter which was operated manually to ignite a golden-yellow mixture.

25X1

There were no flame throwers or smoke generators

There were about 3,000 thermite grenades and shells in regimental supply

gases could be fired in artillery shells and dropped from aircraft in bombs and spray tanks.

10. Officers and EM in the 62nd Inf. Regt. were given three immunization shots a year. The shot caused a reddening of the skin, swelling, and pain for a few days.

25X1

Blood smear tests were given in the 62nd Regt. they were for blood type classification.

11. There was one command inspection in the Spring of 1953 at Elk. Col. (fnu) RUDZINSKI, the CO of the 18th Inf. Div., with an inspection team visited and inspected the entire area and all units.

25X1

there was one Soviet officer and a number of Polish officers.

12. there was a training area called Szlaga east of the main road between Goldap /5419N-2218E/ and Olecko /5402N-2231E/ about 50 km. NNE of Elk. This training area was bigger than the Orzysz /5349N-2157E/ training area. At Szlaga, the 62nd Inf. Regt. invariably held their summer training in part, and the 18th Inf. Div. with artillery unit support, could easily stage its maneuver problems. The Szlaga area was available to the 18th Inf. Div. from March to September.

25X1

S E C R E T